(b) The estimated number of Indian nationals residing in the Gulf countries:

1.	UAE	12,00,000
2.	Kuwait	2,62,000
3.	Saudi Arabia	14,00,000
4.	Bahrain	1,40,000
5.	Qatar	90,000
6.	Yeman	5,000 to 6,000
7.	Oman	3,00,000
8.	Baghdad	14

(c) Deployment of Indian workers abroad on contractual employment is regulated by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder. Under this Act, all intending emigrants having 'Emigration Check Required' endorsement on their passports are required to furnish through registered recruiting agents, demand letters, power of attorney and employment contract, duly attested by Indian mission in the country of employment. Emigration clearance is granted after thorough scrutiny of these documents by the concerned Protector of Emigrants.

The emigration procedure was simplified with effect from 4th October, 1991. Under the revised procedure, the emigrants falling under any of the following six additional categories of 'Emigration Check Not Required' are given emigration clearance after submission of an affidavit by the registered recruiting agent to the effect that the workers actually belong to these categories and that they have been trade-tested for work for which they will be deployed by the foreign employer :—

(i) Supervisors (all professions);

(ii) Skilled workers (all professions);

(iii) Semi-Skilled workers (all professions);

(iv) Light/Medium/Heavy Vehicle Drivers;

(v) Clerical workers of all categories including Stenographers, Store-keepers, time-keepers, typists etc.;

(vi) Cooks excluding those who seek employment in household duties (as cooks).

(d) and (e) The Government is considering a proposal for setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Constitution of a Welfare Fund for the emigrant workers.

Jobless Persons in North-Eastern States

510. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jobless persons registered with various Employment Exchanges in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide employment to these persons in the near future;

(c) whether Government propose to provide special grants to these States to give unemployment allowance to the jobless youth of these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of job-seekers all of whom are not necessarily unemployed who were on the live register of employment exchanges in North Eastern States as on 31-12-1997 is indicated below:—

	States	No. in Thousand
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.8
2.	Assam	1475.0
3.	Manipur	318.1
4.	Meghalaya	34.4
5.	Mizoram	67.9
6.	Nagaland	21.7
7.	Sikkim	*
8.	Tripura	212.5

*No employment exchange is functioning in Sikkim.

(b) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.